

BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
DOCKET NO. 2001-37-C - ORDER NO. 2001-87  
JANUARY 30, 2001

IN RE: Request of PBT Telecom, Inc. for Accounting	)	ORDER APPROVING
Treatment of Acquisition Adjustment	)	ACCOUNTING
Associated with Purchase of Ridge Telephone	)	TREATMENT
Company.	)	

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the request of Pond Branch Telephone (PBT) for accounting treatment of the acquisition adjustment associated with the purchase of Ridge Telephone Company in 1992.

In July of 1992, Ridge Telephone Company was purchased by Pond Branch Telephone Company, Inc. Pond Branch Telephone and Ridge Telephone were merged together in 1996. As a result of this merger, an acquisition adjustment was brought from Ridge's books to Pond Branch's books. To this date, no action has taken place in regards to this item.

PBT requests that this Commission apply accounting treatment to this acquisition adjustment. It is the Company's position that this adjustment should be written off over a term of fourteen (14) years. The term of fourteen (14) years is the average life of PBT's outside plant. In support of this method of handling this adjustment, PBT states that customers in the Ridge Exchange have derived many benefits in their provision of service

from PBT including, but not limited to, a higher level of management expertise, access to more financial resources, and a higher level of service and features. Customers have therefore experienced an overall lower trouble index, according to PBT. PBT therefore requests that this Commission allow the proffered accounting treatment.

We grant the request as filed, for the reasons stated. However, this treatment shall not be precedent for any future actions, nor shall it prejudice the right of any party to take issue with the amount or accounting treatment in any future rate or earnings matter. This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

  
Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Executive Director

(SEAL)